

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05672 091812Z
ACTION ARA-14

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PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /042 W
-----054646 100126Z /72
R 091730Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3098
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 5672

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN PN
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY INFO SEC-
STATE WASHDC AND AMEMBASSY BOGOTA FROM USIS/PANAMA REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

UNCLAS
SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

MEDIA REACTION

1-PANAMA CITY.--TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE TO BE
NUMBER ONE STORY IN ALL MEDIA. MORNINGS AUG. 9 AND TV NEWSCASTS
AUG. 8 CARRIED PHOTOS OF TWO NEGOTIATING TEAMS MEETING AT PANAMA
CITY HOLIDAY INN. STORIES CENTERED ON PANAMANIAN PRESENTATION
OF DRAFT TREATY FOR U.S. CONSIDERATION.
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WASEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA HEADS STORY "PANAMA PRESENTS
DRAFT TREATY," WHILE ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD'S ANNE ORTIZ AP
PANAMA STORY IS HEADED, "RP PRESENTS OWN TREATY DRAFT TO BUNKER'S
TEAM; COUNTERS US PROPOSAL OF JULY 10." PRO-GOP CRITICA HEADS
OWN STORY "LINOWITZ AFFIRMS PANAMIAN NEGOTIATORS' PROPOSALS
ARE GOOD." PRO-GOP MATUTINO RUNS ACAN-EFE STORY, "TWO DRAFT

TREATIES BEING RE ONCILED", WHICH SAYS "BADLY DISGUISED AIR OF EUPHORIA REIGNED AT HOLIDAY INN" YESTERDAY. PRO-GOP AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA AUG. 8 HEADS TWO FRONT PAGE STORIES "LAST STAGE OF NEGOTIATING PROCESS EN ROUTE; PANAMA PRESENTS VERSION OF TREATY," AND "SIGNING OF NEW TREATY WOULD BE INTERNATIONAL EVENT", SPECULATING ON POSSIBILITY OF VISIT TO PANAMA BY PRESIDENT CARTER FOR TREATY SIGNING.

3-RADIO/TV COVERAGE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC, BUT WITHOUT COMMENTARIES. AUG. 8 CHANNEL FOUR EVENING NEWSCAST REPORTED THAT "UPON SIGNING OF TREATY, BOTH CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT AND PANAMA CANAL COMPANY WOULD CEASE TO EXIST."

4-CRITICA EDIT SPECULATES THAT JOINT DRAFT OF TREATY COULD BE READY BY AUG. 11: "THUS COULD END WITH SUCCESS 13 YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS...IT WILL NOT BE THE MAXIMUM THAT WE WANTED, BECAUSE NO NEGOTIATION IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT GIVING IN A LITTLE, BUT IT WILL ESTABLISH HOW...WITH NO BETTER ARMS THAN JUSTICE AND RIGHT, (WE) FACED THE MOST CRUEL IMPERIALIST OPPRESSION."

5-MATUTINO EDIT ALSO TAKES OPTIMISTIC NOTE: "THIS TIME...THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE CAN TRULY GIVE WAY TO OPTIMISM." MATUTINO NOTES THAT FINAL TREATY WILL NOT BE REACHED THIS WEEK, BUT RATHER LIST OF AGREEMENTS FROM WHICH TREATY WILL BE WRITTEN. "BUT EVEN SO, IT WOULD BE OF SUCH SIGNIFICANCE, SUCH COMPLETE UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSCEDENCY, THAT IT COULD BE SAID THAT WHEN SUCH A JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE IT CAN BE CONSIDERED THE CLOSE TO A CHAPTER OF HISTORY WHICH CAST A SHADOW FOR DECADES OVER AMERICAN PANORAMA, WEIGHING WITH ENORMOUS NEGATIVE FORCE OVER CORDIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND LATAM, AS INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCE OF STATUS BETWEEN THAT NATION AND PANAMA."

6-LA REPUBLIC COLUMN PUNTO DE PARTIDA ACCUSES USIS OF DISTRIBUTING DISTORTED AND NEGATIVE PROPAGANDA ON TREATY ISSUE TO JOURNALISTS ATTENDING BOGOTA SUMMIT MEETING. COLUMNIST SAYS PANAMANIAN JOURNALISTS WERE ABLE TO COUNTERACT "PUBLICITY OFFENSIVE ORGANIZED BY USIS, US EMBASSY AND ALL THEIR ALLIES, TO PRESENT...IMAGE THAT OUR NATIONAL WAS INTRANSIGENT, THE ONE WHICH GAVE NO ALTERNATIVES TO SOLUTIONS...AT PRESS TABLE THERE WERE FOLDERS WITH MATERIAL SENT BY USIS IN WHICH WAS EXPLAINED THEIR VERSION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHICH TOLD THE HISTORY OF THE BATTLE FOR THE CANAL IN CLEVER AND NEGATIVE FORM." ITEM

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